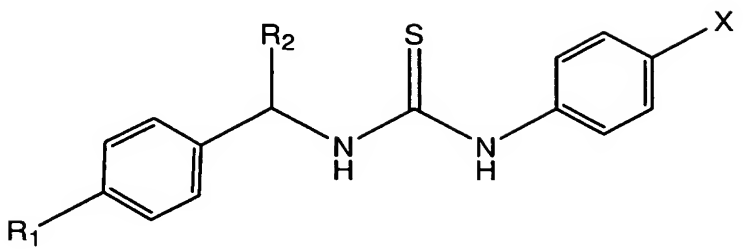
What is claimed:

1. A compound of formula (I):

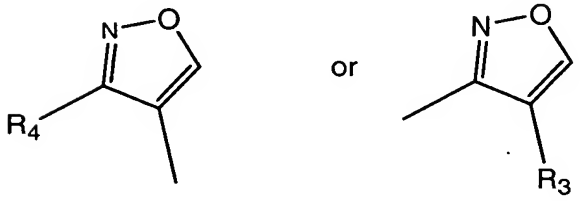


wherein

R_1 is a halogen or hydrogen;

R_2 is an alkyl group;

X is



R_3 is an alkyl group, cycloalkyl, hydroxymethyl, phenyl, substituted phenyl, benzyl group, or substituted benzyl group; and

R_4 is an alkyl group, which may be further substituted with a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, cycloalkyl, pyridyl, quinolinyl, 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazolyl), or imidazolyl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

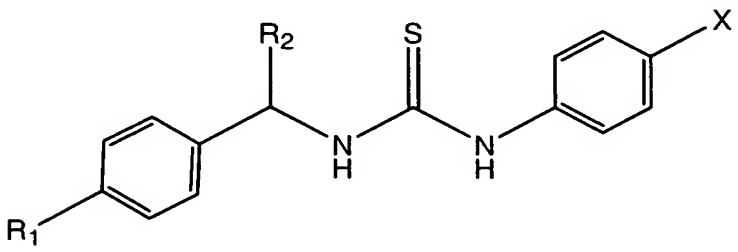
2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_2 is methyl.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_1 is fluorine.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_3 is hydroxymethyl, phenyl, p-fluorophenyl, benzyl, p-fluorobenzyl or tert-butyl.

5. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R_4 is phenyl, 2-hydroxyphenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl, 4-aminophenyl, 4-dimethylaminophenyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 4-quinolyl, 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazolyl) or imidazol-2-yl.

6. A compound of formula:

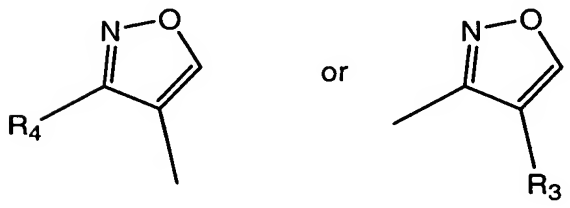


wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, F;

R_2 is an alkyl;

X is



R_3 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxymethyl, phenyl, substituted phenyl, benzyl or substituted benzyl group; and

R_4 is an alkyl group, which may be further substituted with a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, cycloalkyl, pyridyl, quinolinyl, 4-(1,2,3-thiadiazolyl), or imidazolyl group;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound of Claim 1 selected from:

N-{4-[3-(4-aminophenyl)-4-isoxazoly]phenyl}-N'-[1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]thiourea;

N-[1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-N'-{4-[3-(1,2,3,-thiadiazol-4-yl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea;

N-[1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-N'-{4-[3-(2-pyridinyl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea;

N-(4-{3-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-4-isoxazolyl}phenyl)-N'-[1-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]thiourea;

1-[1-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-[4-(4-hydroxymethyl-isoxazol-3-yl)-phenyl]-thiourea;

1-[4-(4-Benzyl-isoxazol-3-yl)-phenyl-3-[1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-thiourea;

1-{4-[4-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-isoxazol-3-yl]-phenyl}-3-[1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-thiourea;

1-[1-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-[4-(4-phenyl-isoxazol-3-yl)-phenyl]-thiourea;

1-[4-(4-tert-Butyl-isoxazol-3-yl)-phenyl]-3-[1-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-thiourea;

1-[1-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-{4-[4-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-isoxazol-3-yl]-phenyl}-thiourea;

N-[1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl]-N'-{4-[3-(3-pyridinyl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea;

N-[1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl-N'-{4-[3-(4-quinolinyl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea;

N-[1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl-N'-{4-[3-(4-pyridinyl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea;

N-[1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl-N'-{4-[3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea;

N-[1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl-N'-[4-(3-phenyl-4-isoxazolyl)phenyl]thiourea;

N-[1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl-N'-{4-[3-(1H-imidazol-2-yl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea; and

N-[1-(4-Fluorophenyl)ethyl]-N'-{4-[3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-4-isoxazolyl]phenyl}thiourea.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutical carrier.

9. A method of inhibiting the replication of a herpes virus comprising contacting a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with an alpha or beta herpes virus.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the herpes virus is human cytomegalovirus.

11. The method of Claim 9 wherein the herpes virus is herpes simplex virus.

12. The method of Claim 9 where the herpes virus is varicella zoster virus.

13. A method of treating a patient suffering from a herpes virus infection comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of

a compound having formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

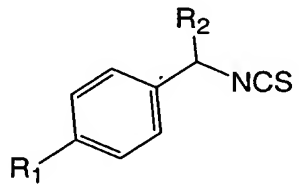
14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the herpes virus is human cytomegalovirus.

15. The method of Claim 13 wherein the herpes virus is herpes simplex virus.

16. The method of Claim 13 where the herpes virus is varicella zoster virus.

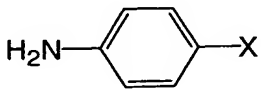
17. The method of Claim 13 where the varicella zoster virus is treated with substantially pure (S) optical isomer.

18. A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 which comprises reacting a compound of formula II;



II

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula III



III

wherein X is as defined in claim 1, and if desired isolating the compound of formula I prepared as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.